Licence on TV Sets

278. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the licensing system on television sets;

(b) if so, whether a Committee has been set up in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Exodus of Doordarshan Officials

279. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of officials of the Doordarshan are joining foreign TV network by seeking premature retirement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the officials who have joined foreign TV network with/without seeking permission of the Government; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A number of Doordarshan officials have recently sought voluntary retirement/ resigned from service on personal grounds.

(c) and (d). Government are not aware of their joining foreign TV networks as none of these officers has sought the requisite permission.

[English]

Electrification of Track between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam

280. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to electrification of track work between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam; and

(b) the time by which electrification work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As on 31.10.96, out of the total of 366 route kilometre in the Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section, 201 route kilometre have been electrified. The electrification of entire section is planned for completion by March, 97.

Konkan Railway Project

281. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T. :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of routes and main cities proposed to be connected with rail link under the Konkan Railway Project alongwith the work completed thereon so far;

(b) the time by which the Konkan Railway Project is likely to be completed and made available for passengers as well as goods traffic;

(c) whether the construction work on doubling the line on Shornur - Mangalore and on other lines has been entrusted to the Konkan Railway Corporation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Konkan Railway passes through the following important cities/towns :

Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavli, Kudal, Sawantwadi (Sawantwadi Road), Mapusa Road, Old Goa, Madgaon, Karwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Bhatkal, Kundapura, Udupi and Suratkal.

The Sections from Roha to Ratnagiri (203 kms) and Mangalore to Kundapura (100 kms) has already been opened for passenger services and Ratnagiri to Sawantwadi (160 kms) section has also been completed and is expected to be opened for passenger services by mid December, 1996.

As such, the whole project is likely to be completed for goods services and passenger services by March 1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign TV Network

282. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mauritius TV software company has been allowed with association with another company based on Mauritius to assume 100 per cent control of its Indian subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Restructuring of ITI Limited

283. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a Proposal to restructure the ailing Public Sector Telecom giant ITI Ltd :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies have submitted their offers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Mainly on account of competitive environment and fall in prices of telecom equipment, ITI suffered losses during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Therefore, with a view to conduct an indepth study of the organisation and adopt changes to turn around the company is considering a proposal to engage a suitable consultancy firm. The restructuring and strategies are being considered with reference to business of the Company, its organisation and financial aspects.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The following Companies have submitted offers :-

1. M/s Arthur D. Little, Bombay
2. M/s Richer Consultancy Services, Delhi;
3. M/s Coopers & Lybrand, Bombay
4. M/s COSMODE, Hyderabad
5. M/s SFCG, Division of KPMG Peat Marwick, Bombay
6. M/s Price Waterhouse, New Delhi
7. M/s ICICI, Bombay

The Government is considering the proposal of ITI for appointing a consultancy firm.

Eligibility of Bonus

284. SHRI AJAY CHAKARABORTY :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers in the industries to which the payment of Bonus Act is applicable have been demanding to amend the present Act so as to abolish the eligibility ceiling for payment of Bonus;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to amend the Bonus Act in this regard and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Central Government have been receiving representations from trade unions for abolition/revision of eligibility limit in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

(b) and (c) The Act was last Amended only in 1995 raising the eligibility limit from Rs.2500/- per month to Rs.3500/- per month and Calculation ceiling from Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs.2500/- per month. There is no proposal for further amending the Act at present

[Translation]

Training Centre of Indian Institute of Mass Communications

285. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of Indian Institute of Mass Communications training centre at district Jhabhua in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Land for IIMC branch at Jhabua has been acquired by the institute. It is proposed to include the construction of buildings in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Air Space Facility to India

286. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of signing bilateral agreement some countries are not allowing India to use their air space;

(b) if so, the names of those countries;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue with those countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Some of the Arab Countries like